

# CURRENT LITERATURE

## MINOR NOTICES

**Engler's Syllabus.**—The seventh edition of Engler's *Syllabus*<sup>1</sup> had marked a great progress beyond the sixth; 135 pages of text had been added and the usefulness of the book was greatly increased by the introduction of illustrations. No such radical changes were made in favor of the eighth edition, which appeared in the summer of 1919. The number of illustrations remained the same, although some were replaced by new ones, and the text was only increased by 11 pages. A few groups, for instance the gymnosperms, show considerable changes. Here the fossil families have received more attention. The Cycadofilicales, which were not mentioned in the seventh edition, are now discussed. Also the Filicales are rearranged and are now headed by the Marattiales. Comparatively few changes are made in the angiosperms. The chapters on plant classification and the outline of floral regions are rewritten by ENGLER himself, and the new literature finds consideration throughout the book. Probably ENGLER and GILG did the best they could while handicapped by lack of literature from English speaking countries.

The rapid growth of the *Syllabus* from edition to edition has undoubtedly suffered a setback through the war. Nevertheless, the book is still the most convenient outline of the generally accepted system which bears ENGLER'S name, and as a very handy index to his *Natürliche Pflanzenfamilien* it remains indispensable to the student of botany. It might be added that its price for American purchasers is about 150 marks.—A. C. NOÉ.

**A dictionary of botany.**—SCHNEIDER and LINSBAUER'S<sup>2</sup> dictionary of botany lists about 7000 technical terms which are accompanied by short definitions and cross-references, or by articles of sometimes considerable length. SCHNEIDER had published the first edition with the help of a large staff of collaborators, and the second edition was left to the care of LINSBAUER, who is HABERLANDT'S successor in Graz (Austria). The text is preceded by a short bibliography of botanical treatises and periodicals. Only German books are listed, and the *Annals of Botany* and the BOTANICAL GAZETTE are the only English and American periodicals which are mentioned. Most illustrations are rather old and well known to all students of botany. Modern plant morphology is largely neglected, except that the embryology

<sup>1</sup> ENGLER, ADOLF, and GILG, ERNST, *Syllabus der Pflanzenfamilien*. 8. Auflage. 8vo. pp. xxxv+395. *figs.* 457. Berlin. 1919.

<sup>2</sup> SCHNEIDER, C. K., and LINSBAUER, KARL, *Handwörterbuch der Botanik*. 2. Auflage. 8vo. pp. xxi+824. *figs.* 396. Leipzig. 1917.